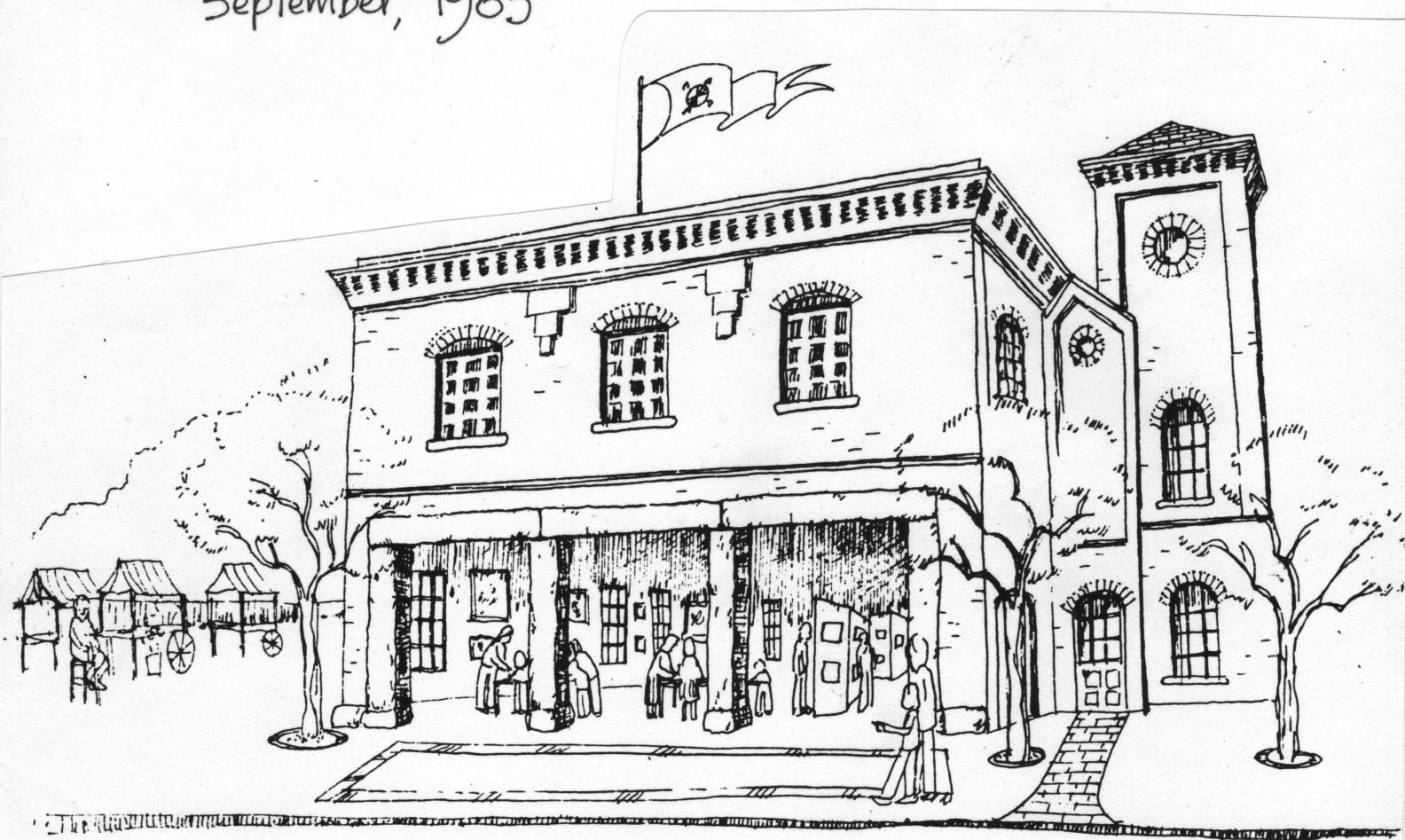


Firehouse Visions

September, 1985



a proposal submitted to The Old South Fund



by the Jamaica Plain Arts Council
P.O. Box 533
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130



Jamaica Plain
Arts Council

September 12, 1985

THE OLD SOUTH FUND
The Old South Church of Boston
645 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear People:

We respectfully request \$7,000 toward our "Firehouse Visions" project, described in the accompanying materials. We propose to create an intergenerational, multicultural performance involving visual, dramatic and musical arts to bring together the people of our community.

Jamaica Plain is an area rich in cultural diversity yet divided by fear and distrust of racial, ethnic, and economic differences. We need a place and programs that can foster a sense of community and inspire faith in our ability to work together. The Public Facilities Department of Boston will soon designate a developer for the former J.P. Firehouse. We are confident that our proposal to create a Multicultural Community Arts Center, which has strong community support, will be chosen, and have planned our project to share our "Firehouse Visions" with as many people as possible. Since the arts provide a common ground for promoting creative interactions between people from diverse backgrounds, we hope to encourage broad participation in our new arts center.

As an organization that has successfully collaborated with a wide variety of schools, churches and community groups, we share The Old South Fund's commitment to ecumenical social action. Our past and present activities reflect that commitment, and we hope you will look favorably upon our proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of our application. We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to talk with you personally about our "Firehouse Visions", and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Femke Rosenbaum

Femke Rosenbaum
Vice-President, 522-2809

Amika

B. Ernst-DiGennaro
Board Member, 522-5730



Jamaica Plain
Arts Council

FIREHOUSE VISIONS PROJECT SUMMARY

Goal: To build a sense of community and to inspire faith in our ability to create a better world.

Objectives/Services:

- * to share our visions for a Multicultural Community Arts Center with the diverse population of Jamaica Plain.
- * to encourage active participation in Arts Council projects by a broad spectrum of the community.
- * to promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.
- * to enable people to experience the joy and power of working together toward a common goal.

Program:

We propose to create an intergenerational, multicultural performance involving visual, dramatic and musical arts. The focus of this performance will be "Firehouse Visions" - a sharing of our experiences with the arts as a powerful and positive way to bring people together, and of our dreams for the Multicultural Community Arts Center in the old J.P. Firehouse. The cast of about 30 people will consist of representatives of the diverse ages and cultures in our community, including some professional artists, who will create the performance from their own varied experiences and dreams.

After extensive outreach and auditions held in a variety of locations, we plan twenty rehearsals from January through April. Eight performances will be presented from May through June - at the Firehouse Arts Center opening, local schools, churches and community centers in different areas of Jamaica Plain. We would be pleased to give a performance at the Old South Church as well. Other possible performance sites include:

Southwest Corridor Community Farm

- during the 8th annual Wake Up the Earth Festival, May 3, 1986 - a multicultural celebration of Spring attended by 500-1000 people from all over Jamaica Plain and nearby areas of Roxbury

Bromley Hall

- located at Bromley-Heath, a predominantly black housing development between Centre & Heath Streets

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

- on Centre Street in Hyde Square, an area of primarily Hispanic homes and businesses

Footlight Club or First Church (Unitarian-Universalist)

- on Eliot Street in a mostly white, middle-class neighborhood near Jamaica Pond

Agassiz Community School

- located in a racially mixed, working class neighborhood and opposite the Farnsworth House on South Street (a home for the elderly)

Jamaica Plain High School

- between Green St. & Forest Hills Stations on the MBTA Orange Line, possibly during school day for students

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood House

- on Amory Street in a neighborhood with a mixture of black, white and Hispanic families

Persons to be served:

As outlined in our list of objectives, we believe that this project will serve the entire community of Jamaica Plain - as will the Multicultural Community Arts Center itself.

The performers and volunteers who will be creating "Firehouse Visions" will be working closely together for several months. They will be sharing personal experiences from their various cultural backgrounds, building the understanding and trust of one another that is necessary to such a production, and engaging their audiences in a similar spirit of creative cooperation.

The audiences, from every corner of Jamaica Plain, will also benefit from this project. As an integral part of the performance they will be asked to participate in a cultural collaboration with the cast - sharing food, creating a group mural, singing and/or dancing together - which will engender a sense of unity while celebrating our uniqueness. "Firehouse Visions" will be more than good entertainment; it will indeed build community spirit and inspire faith in our ability to create a better world.

Evaluation:

Our evaluation of the success of this project will be based on attendance figures at performances, on increased Arts Council membership and involvement in Firehouse programs, and on interviews with project participants and audiences.

Relevance to The Old South Fund's purposes:

Our project's goals and objectives are in accord with The Old South Fund's purposes in many ways. They reflect our belief in "thinking globally, acting locally" to effect social change. In order to create racial harmony, for example, we must help individuals from diverse backgrounds learn to respect one another and find ways to work together. A participatory performance such as we envision would foster this spirit of understanding and, hopefully, enable people to set aside their prejudices to be creative together.

The Jamaica Plain Arts Council has a noteworthy record of cooperative efforts with churches, schools, community groups and public service organizations that focus on each of The Old South Fund's concerns (see Appendix). One example of this is the production of the annual Wake Up the Earth Festival - a collaboration of many groups and individuals, particularly with the Southwest Corridor Community Farm, which deals directly with issues of racial harmony, education, health and hunger. As a participant in the J.P. Community Planning Coalition with 15 other organizations, we are also helping to create guidelines for ethnically and economically balanced land development in our community. One of our goals for the Firehouse Center is to provide a meeting place for J.P.'s many diverse community groups to come together to share ideas, resources, and strategies toward common goals. This project, which focuses on "Firehouse Visions", will help make this kind of cooperation a reality.

**Jamaica Plain
Arts Council****FIREHOUSE VISIONS PROJECT BUDGET**

The funding requested would cover a six month period, January - June 1986, for 20 rehearsals and 8 performances. We will also seek funding from local businesses, the Boston Globe Foundation, and the Haymarket Peoples Fund.

Professional Services

Artistic Director	\$2,000
Technical Director	1,000
Artists, Teachers, Performers	3,000
Project Coordinator	1,000

Materials

Performance materials (costumes, sets, props, etc.)	1,000
Technical Equipment	1,500
Consumables for audience participation	1,000
Exhibit	500

Publicity/Documentation

Videotaping	
Photography	
Programs	
Fliers	750
Postage	200

Rent for Rehearsal Space

TOTAL \$12,950

15% ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD 1,942.50

GRAND TOTAL \$14,892.50

Budget Discussion:

We are asking The Old South Fund for the \$7,000 needed to cover the costs of Professional Services for this project. This represents almost half of our total project budget, and would enable us to start recruiting staff for this important outreach effort while seeking additional funds.

Our proposal may well fall under the category of a "risky but imaginative and compassionate" venture! Although the J.P. Arts Council was founded seven years ago, the "group of individuals" did not become incorporated until last September. Our tax exempt status is still pending and we have no staff person as yet. However, we have been very active in providing arts programming in collaboration with many different local community groups, often using them as an umbrella for funding. If we were to count all the volunteer hours that have been donated to Arts Council programs, our budgets would look very impressive indeed!

The current and prior year's budgets included in the Appendix are necessarily a compilation of figures from our various collaborative efforts. Since we are only recently incorporated, we do not yet have audited financial statements. As soon as our partnership has been awarded the Firehouse, we have been informally promised technical assistance from the Mass Council on the Arts and Humanities to develop a comprehensive fundraising plan for the future. Meanwhile, we hope you will consider how much we have accomplished with so little, and help us make our "Firehouse Visions" a reality.



Attachments



Jamaica Plain
Arts Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Andrew Holiner - musician & music educator

Vice-President: Femke Rosenbaum - teacher, parent, community activist, Dutch citizen

Secretary: Helen Hummel - visual artist & teacher, creator & publisher of J.P. Arts News

Treasurer: Neil Orleans - community activist, organizer

* * * * *

Karen Ancas - free-lance illustrator & graphic designer

Clementina Rey Acebedo - Director of Community Development/Affairs for Oficina Hispana, activist/board member of many community groups, from Argentina & Paraguay

David Christian - singer, songwriter, photographer, social worker, creator of J.P. Junction Coffeehouse

B. Ernst-DiGennaro (AMIKA) - teacher, author, craftswoman, consultant to Boston Public Schools and Children's Museum

W. Ernest Garneau - housing & community development specialist, Executive Director of Urban Educational Systems

Jay Havighurst - sculptor, performing artist, woodworking teacher for learning/emotionally disabled children

Alice M. Johnson - parent, performing artist (poetry, dance, & singing from Black experience), community activist with Martha Eliot Health Center, Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corp., & others

James A. Maxwell - management & financial consultant, ~~Division~~ Director of Boston's Industrial Development Agency

Paul Rogoszewski - songwriter, musician, teacher/counselor at Hayden School, Dorchester

Armando Silva - from Peru, community planner and program developer for human service agencies

FIREHOUSE VISIONS PROJECT INITIATOR

Femke Rosenbaum
11 Clive Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
522-2809

Born: 1944 in The Netherlands
Married with 4 children (ages 12,11,9,4)

My family and I moved to Jamaica Plain in 1973. Over the years our house has become an informal learning environment for neighborhood children and adults, as well as a "Dutch Cultural Center". Projects such as the following are regularly based there: yearly Sinterklaas celebrations, Hallowe'en surprises, summer camps, Festival preparations, and animal husbandry.

My broader community involvement began with the JP-Roxbury Food Coop, the Southwest Corridor Coalition, and the J.P. Arts Council - and has led to the Wake Up the Earth Festival, the Southwest Corridor Community Farm, and the J.P. Community Planning Coalition. I have also volunteered at the Trotter School in Roxbury and at the Kennedy, James M. Curley, and Agassiz Schools in Jamaica Plain.

These varied activities reflect a consistent effort on my part to implement an orientation toward education and toward community in the neighborhood in which I live. I believe that many facets of a community's life, especially culture and education, can and should be based in the community itself. I have attempted, by initiating or supporting many programs like those described in these appendices, to show that there are unappreciated local resources which can be used to enrich our community's life and give its people the satisfaction of contributing to and possibly controlling at least these parts of their lives and surroundings.

Having trained and worked as a teacher, I have always had a special interest in developing affordable alternative educational settings for children in learning and appreciating the possibilities of community life. Education should not only be schooling, nor parades only be "downtown". With the Wake Up the Earth Festival, I and others have begun a tradition which we hope will add to our community's confidence and ability to shape its educational and cultural life. My involvement with the Jamaica Plain Arts Council and our proposed Multicultural Community Arts Center is a natural extension of my life-long commitment to education and community empowerment. Some of my personal "Firehouse Visions" are described on the following page.

SOME OF MY "FIREHOUSE VISIONS"

Internationalism

Jamaica Plain is a community in which you might find people of thirty different nationalities living on one street. The Firehouse Community Arts Center could be:

- * a place in which people can share their diverse cultures in a celebratory way throughout the year.
- * the workplace for a "Reverse Peace Corps". Craftspeople, artists, and educators from other countries would come to J.P. for a year, live with a local family and be part of an international staff working in the Firehouse.
- * the home for "Children are the Future", an organization which sends a group of children and artists from the U.S.A. to another part of the world each summer to share experiences and work with children and artists there.

Networking

J.P. is faced with extensive development in the Southwest Corridor (once cleared for a 12-lane highway and now nearing completion for a new MBTA line) and throughout the community. We need to be organized to make sure we get the kind of development that benefits local residents, especially the poor, who are already being displaced by rampant gentrification. Communication and cooperation are key to accomplishing this, and the Firehouse Community Arts Center could facilitate the process by:

- * providing a meeting place for J.P.'s many diverse community groups to come together to share ideas, resources, and strategies toward common goals.
- * having a computer and "communications center" accessible to the community and arts related groups based at the Firehouse.

* * *

A community center is a right of the people. Fifty years ago there were many more community centers, more people went to church, playgrounds were supervised. Even though we are not offering the city a lot of money, we would be providing services to the public which would cost the city a lot more.

I would like to see the Firehouse development be an example of cooperation. My recommendation to the City of Boston is to create an interface between the competing parties to see how we might work together to demonstrate a new way of solving problems.

We need to stand up to the attitude that money rules the world. And most of all we need to believe that there is an alternative and to find ways to work for that in our communities.

Tamie Rosenbaum July '85

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Jamaica Plain Arts Council originated in 1978 when efforts to create community-based arts programming were supported by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. Over the past seven years, with limited resources and extensive volunteer effort, we have served the community with quality arts programming for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The opportunity to create a Multicultural Community Arts Center in the old J.P. Firehouse provided a catalyst for incorporation last Fall. A weekly schedule that typifies the many different activities that might occur in such a center is shown below.

The following pages include a listing of our activities over the past year, various materials in support of our ability to organize cultural programming, and further information about our proposal to the Public Facilities Department.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE at the FIREHOUSE

		COMMUNITY ROOM				
		a.m.	p.m.	evening	a.m.	p.m.
SUN.	International Family Breakfast	Int'l. Crafts Market	Int'l. Folkdancing			
MON.						
TUES.	Music & Movement with School Grp.	After School Song, Dance, & Theater around Cultural Theme - for children of all ages.	Potluck Dinner	Community Meeting	Crafts for Visiting School Group	After School Arts Classe
WED.	Folkdancing for Seniors	Visits for children of all ages.	"Dance tree"		Parent Workshop	
THURS.	Performance for School Group	Visits for lunch	Fundraiser for Local Group	Crafts for Visiting School Group	Art Classes for Adults	
FRI.	Ballroom dancing for Seniors	Int'l. Crafts Market	J.P. Flicks	Arts Council Performance	Art Class for Adults	
SAT.	International Crafts Market					



Jamaica Plain
Arts Council



Jamaica Plain Arts Council

In the past year alone (1984-85), the Jamaica Plain Arts Council has successfully completed the tasks and projects listed below. In most cases they were conceived and carried out by volunteers with very limited budgets. All events were well attended and were designed to bring arts, culture, and the community together.

- Fundraising Concert which raised \$900
- Incorporated and sought non-profit, tax-exempt status
- Designed, printed and sold Arts Council T-shirts
- Enrolled over 200 members
- Friday evening film series at J.P. High School
- Lantern Parade around Jamaica Pond
- Sponsored a week of Christmas caroling on Centre Street
- Sinterklaas Performance at James M. Curley School
- Winter Performance Series of 5 concerts
- Wrote and received 2 Arts Lottery grants
- Festival Arts Classes for children
- Wake Up the Earth Festival (7th Annual Parade & Festival)
- Performance, podium & banner to Agassiz School for space
- Franklin Park Concerts - 16 concert summer series
- Art in the Park at Beecher Street Community Park
- Jamaica Plain Arts News - Board Member Helen Hummel
- J.P. Junction Coffeehouse - Board Member David Christian

To achieve many of these projects, we have collaborated with a wide variety of community groups, including:

- Arts in Progress
- Boston Public Schools
- Bromley-Heath Housing Development
- Central Congregational Church
- Footlight Club Community Theatre
- Franklin Park Zoo
- Friends of the Library
- Jamaica Plain Community Schools
- Jamaica Plain High School
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood House
- Jamaica Pond Project
- Local businesses
- Oficina Hispana
- Southwest Corridor Community Farm
- Unitarian-Universalist Church

A RITUAL IS BORN

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, October 27 & 28 over 100 children and adults made paper "lampions" at the Jamaica Pond boathouse. These colorful lanterns with painted, stamped, leaf-printed and inked designs were made for the Lantern Parade Around the Pond at sunset, November 3rd.

These workshops and the parade were organized by Femke Rosenbaum, parent, educator and community leader and by Amika (B. Ernst-DiGennaro), in cooperation with the Jamaica Pond Project. Other Arts Council members helped, and many people contributed twenty-five cents for material costs.

And then, at sunset as planned, people began to gather. As twilight grew, so did the crowd until it numbered in the hundreds. Many people brought lanterns they had made. Some had "real" lanterns as the kids called them, the kind with glass, some were from Switzerland where lantern parades are a familiar ritual. All the lanterns were aglow, reflecting on the smiling, friendly faces of their carriers. People brought musical instruments, tamborines, bells. Femke strung more lanterns on the gazebo and suddenly it took on the aspect of a Japanese teahouse.

As people began the journey around the pond, the last light lingered in the sky. Soon it was completely dark and a backward or forward look revealed many bobbing orbs in both directions. Around a curve and they were reflected in the calm water. The moon rose in harmony with the revelers, just past half full.

The cold, crisp air may have hurried a few, but most seemed content to stroll along, greeting old friends as their faces came glowing out of the darkness. Or making new acquaintances as lost gloves were looked for or

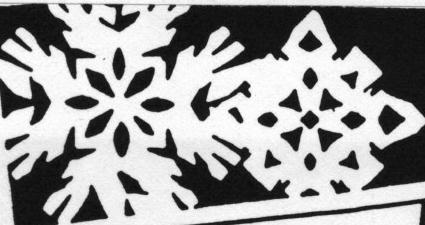


doused candles were relit.

But there were more treats in store. At the end of the circuit was Thomas and Rosana Workman with their apple press and a truckload of apples making remarkable fresh-pressed cider.

Truly an outstanding experience, all the better for having been shared by so many. Thus a ritual is born.





WINTER PERFORMANCE

Five Thursdays of high quality, diverse entertainment in beautiful Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

FEBRUARY 7 BEYOND OURSELVES

DAVID CHRISTIAN is a veteran performer who has shared the stage with likes of Ramblin' Jack Elliot, John Prine, Steve Goodman and Marshall Dodge.

MARTHA LAPPEN and CRAIG WELLS playing traditional and contemporary folk music. Their blend of original and borrowed music featuring tight clear harmonies have delighted audiences throughout New England.

FEBRUARY 21 A CLASSICAL BIRTHDAY

HELP US CELEBRATE THE 300TH BIRTHDAY OF J.S. BACH, SCARLATTI & HAENDEL PLUS MANY OTHER SURPRISES!

THE DANE TRIO WILL delight audiences with an eclectic brand of exciting and experimental jazz. The TRIO will join P.C. REID in a poetry/jazz creation.

P.C. REID, poet, is widely published in journals and literary reviews. A formalist who believes strongly in the form and craft of poetry, he explores a multitude of themes with humor and insight.

"ANDY MOLINER AND THE FIREHOUSE BAND". Andy Moliner's compositions span a musical rainbow from rock through folk and classical to jazz-all from the heart. Andy describes his musical tastes in two words - "whatever cooks".

JAMAICA PLAIN HOME GROWN & MEN AND VOLTS ALIDA RORH'S BAND MARCH 7

"...FROM KURT WEILL TO HOWLIN' WOLF...SEVERAL VARIETIES OF RHYTHM 'N' BLUES SPACE EXPLORATIONS..."

"...FROM DECADANCE TO ROCK 'N' ROLL TO NEO DECADANCE..."

The Footlight Club is located on Eliot Street in Jamaica Plain, near the monument. By MBTA, take the Arborway Green Line to the Monument. Tickets are \$3.00 at the door, \$2.50 with a Jamaica Plain Arts Council membership card. All performances start at 8:00 pm with the exception of March 7 which starts at 9:00 pm. Food and refreshments will be available at all performances.

SERIES SUBSCRIPTIONS

ALL FIVE PERFORMANCES FOR ONLY \$12.50
A SAVINGS OF \$2.50

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS

AND MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 3, JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130

SPONSORED BY: THE JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS in cooperation with
THE JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS COUNCIL and THE FOOTLIGHT CLUB COMMUNITY THEATRE

FEBRUARY 14 A VALENTINE FOR YOU A SHOWCASE OF FOLK TALENT!

JEU-PARTI, a classical guitar duo composed of Emily Leivian and Dick Layman, will offer a special program of Bach, Scarlatti and Handel. They have performed together for a number of years and between them have many more years of performance and teaching experience.

Classical pianist DONNA HOOTELLER will perform a varied program from her repertoire. Trained at the New England Conservatory and Ithaca College, Ms. Hooteller has performed in a solo and chamber music capacity throughout New England and New York.

ROBERT C. AMELIO will combine his theatrical, dance and oratory talents in a performance of e.e. cumming's poetry. Currently, an instructor in Communication Studies at Emerson College, Mr. Amelio will bring to life these poems for you.

FEBRUARY 28 IN THE SPIRIT AN EVENING OF MUSIC & POETRY



MIXASHAWN

Native
American
Musician

Festival Arts Workshop / Performance

Music, stories & movement for young people... with performance by Mixashawn & Workshop students.

When: April 20, 1:30 pm

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church
(at the Monument) Centre of Eliot St.

Admission: \$3.00 Refreshments

Sponsored by Jamaica Plain Arts Council

W·A·K·E · U · P T·H·E · E·A·R·T·H

7th Annual

FESTIVAL 1985 MAY 4TH
SATURDAY



* Raindate:
May 5th

THIS YEAR CELEBRATING

COMMUNITY COOPERATION!

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR A GALA

PARADE DOWN CENTRE ST.

FROM THE MONUMENT IN J.P. & THE
PARKER HILL LIBRARY ON MISSION HILL ...

GATHERING TOGETHER AT THE

SW CORRIDOR COMMUNITY FARM
LAMARTINE & HOFFMAN STS., J.P.

TO SHARE MUSIC, DANCE, CRAFTS, GAMES &
FOOD FROM OUR MULTICULTURAL TRADITIONS !

SPONSORED BY JPARTS COUNCIL, JP NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE,
OFICINA HISPANA, PAIGE ACADEMY, MASCO & MANY OTHERS !



Jamaica Plain
Arts Council

Festival Notes ...

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS MAY 15, 1985

The Wake Up The Earth Festival has, in the 7 years of its existence, changed its emphasis, its focus. "These things take on a life of their own" notes Femke Rosenbaum, one of the founders--and still an organizer--of the event which this year drew almost 1000 people by her estimation.

Seven years ago four community groups came together for a common purpose: to create a spring celebration to share and celebrate traditions from their cultures--and to Wake Up The Earth.. The Southwest Corridor Community Farm, one of the founding groups, was chosen as the site. The Farm hoped to increase awareness of its existence, and the area has proven to be a fine location for the festival. The other groups involved were the Jamaica Plain Arts Council, J.P. Neighborhood House, and the Paige Academy from Roxbury.

As traditions were shared the similarities from culture to culture became evident--and exciting. "Drums are found in many traditions," observed Femke, "as is dancing, where the higher you jump, the higher the crops will grow."

Year-to-year there has been a different emphasis placed on workshops and educational programs leading up to Earth Day. In 1982, extensive awareness sessions occurred at the Kennedy School. People representing Old European, Black, and Hispanic cultures met and chose from among the many tradi-

tions available, which were then taught to the children.

This year the Festival Workshops, led by the Jamaica Plain Arts Council, began in winter and continued every Saturday until the Festival. Averaging 30 children at each event, projects ranged from musical instrument making with Thomas Workman, to Native American dancing with Mixashawn. Parents, children and organizers felt the workshops were a great success. They also felt that had it been possible to hold them all in one location, the momentum would have built even more.

In general, fewer people participated in organizing this year's festival than in the past. Femke describes the three months of preparations as being as valuable as the festival day itself. "For those who have been involved, it has been a rewarding experience. In the course of preparing and working together and then coming together, valuable community connections are made."

Femke would like to see a return to the hands-on demonstrations of such things as solar power that were featured in the past. "There also need to be more activities for children and families."

Yet during the day itself, which dawned and stayed clear and dry, few were noticing what was missing but were caught up in the energy and community spirit that flowed freely in the air at The Farm in the heart of the city.

ART in the PARK

A Celebration of the Natural World!

at
Beecher Street Community Park



TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10am-12 noon	3-5 p.m.	3-5 p.m.	10am-12 noon
	MASKS & Gesture Drawings JULY 31		Theatre & Movement games 2
Theatre & Movement games 6 * Performance Rehearsals 13	MURAL PAINTING 7	AUG. 1	*
	Creating TOTEMS & Play Structures 14	15	Performance Rehearsals 9
* Pottery 20	Stencil Invitations 21	Painting MASKS 22	Pottery 16
27	Costumes 28	Button Making 29	PERFORMANCES 30

Funded by an Arts Lottery grant,

6p.m. BAR-B-Q
at Beecher St.

Summer Fun for Kids is

Sponsored by the Southwest Corridor Community Farm
& the J.P. Arts Council - call 522-1259 for more information.



Jamaica Plain Arts Council

Jamaica Plain is an area rich in cultural diversity, and for the past seven years the Jamaica Plain Arts Council has initiated creative programming which brings the community together through a sharing of our many different traditions. The opportunity now exists to support and broaden these activities by creating a Multicultural Arts Center in the heart of Jamaica Plain. The location and design of the old Firehouse at 746 Centre Street make it the ideal setting for such a project.

WHY DO WE NEED A MULTICULTURAL ARTS CENTER?

From farmland to "streetcar suburb", Jamaica Plain had developed into a primarily Irish working class neighborhood by the late 1800's. With a steady influx of immigrants throughout this century, Jamaica Plain has emerged as a multi-ethnic community. In recent years, MBTA development along the Southwest Corridor and the "rediscovery" of this urban neighborhood by young professionals has added the fear of displacement and gentrification to the distrust engendered by racial, ethnic, and economic differences.

Centre Street runs through the heart of Jamaica Plain and reflects the diversity of our community. It begins at Moss Hill, our most affluent section, winds through a commercial district surrounded by stable residential neighborhoods, passes Hyde Square with its heavy concentration of Hispanic homes and businesses, and reaches the Southwest Corridor at Bromley-Heath, a primarily black housing development. The annual Wake Up the Earth Parade, one of many activities sponsored by the J.P. Arts Council in conjunction with other community organizations, follows this exact route - gathering people along the way for a spirited, multicultural Spring Festival. The Jamaica Plain Arts Council is firmly committed to this kind of cultural interchange, which promotes a sense of unity and understanding of one another while celebrating our uniqueness.

The Arts Council originated in 1978 when efforts toward creating community-based arts programming were supported throughout the city. Planning for a new J.P. Fire Station was underway at that time, and the Children's Museum was moving from the Jamaicaway to its present downtown location. The idea for a Multicultural Arts Center was born when the manager of Jamaica Plain's "Little City Hall" asked Arts Council members to generate ideas for using the old Firehouse to replace the loss of the Children's Museum.

Proposition 2½ delayed the development of our new Fire Station, which was finally completed at the end of 1984, but our need for a Multicultural Arts Center remains unfulfilled. The Jamaica Plain Arts Council, with limited resources and extensive volunteer effort, has served the community for seven years with quality arts programming for people of all ages and backgrounds. We have successfully collaborated with such diverse groups as the Southwest Corridor Community Farm, Boston Public Schools, Oficina Hispana, Jamaica Pond Project, J.P. Neighborhood House and J.P. APAC. It is time now for the Arts Council to have its own space in order to coordinate, support, and expand its contribution to the Jamaica Plain community.

On November 8, 1984, City Councillor Maura Hennigan and then Public Facilities Director Peter Welsh hosted a community meeting to discuss possible uses for the old Firehouse. There was overwhelming support at this meeting for the Arts Council's proposal for a J.P. Multicultural Arts Center. State Representative Kevin Fitzgerald shared his experience with the arts as a powerful and positive way to bring people together, describing the proposed Arts Center as "a wonderful and creative focal point for the community." Nate Smith of the Gray Panthers summed up his comments with, "We need it; the city needs it."

OUR PLAN

Multi-use facilities are fast becoming the solution for housing the arts. The Massachusetts Cultural Alliance recently sponsored a seminar presenting five instances of such developments occurring nationally. Of particular note is the positive way in which each Arts Center affected the business communities in which they were based. Spirit Square Arts Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, includes a "festival retail market" which is a particularly fine example of the life, energy, and commercial enterprise that we plan to bring to our own community.

The location of the old Fire Station in the center of Jamaica Plain's commercial district makes it ideal for a Multicultural Arts Center. This area of J.P. is easily accessible to all parts of the community by MBTA, and is "neutral territory" where all of its diverse people feel comfortable. Our multi-use plan for this space would not only provide arts programming, but would also attract customers to an exciting commercial venture at street level and enable a vacated public facility to continue serving the public.

The large open space on the ground floor provides for flexibility of use. We envision here a combination of performance cafe and festive international marketplace. Because the Fire Station is set back from the street, the sidewalk area would allow for extending the cafe and market outdoors in warm weather. Our community's cultural diversity would be reflected in the international foods,

crafts, flowers, toys and other wares sold from stalls and pushcarts. Spontaneous performances of mime and music will enliven the daytime atmosphere, while a regular program of films, concerts, dances, etc. will provide evening entertainment for all. These commercial endeavors will not only enrich the life of our community, but will also generate income for staffing, program development, maintenance and taxes.

The second floor will provide meeting and workshop areas, as well as rented and/or shared office space for the Arts Council and cooperating community organizations. We will offer classes with local artists in music, crafts, visual arts, theater and movement. Classes will be designed to meet the needs and interests of young and old, with fees based on a sliding scale and additional funding sought to provide scholarships. We also plan to create an educational resource center for parents and teachers in our community, working closely with School Volunteers for Boston and with the Boston Public Schools. This would be a comfortable space in which to discuss common goals, share ideas and resources, develop a project library and recycle center for craft materials, plan and conduct workshops, and generally foster cooperation between school and community.

The entire building could provide exhibit space for local artists, and will celebrate the richness of our cultural diversity. The attraction of the festive atmosphere on the ground floor will draw passers-by to explore the whole center. The performance cafe, classes and workshops will bring people together through the arts - creating a sense of community and sharing across cultures.

* * *

The Jamaica Plain Arts Council has dedicated leadership and a growing membership. It has demonstrated its ability to provide creative programming and to cooperate with other organizations. Our proposal includes commercial activities that will generate income, and has broad-based community support. Please join us to create a Multicultural Arts Center of which the entire Jamaica Plain community will be proud. The old J.P. Fire Station is the right place - now is the right time.

Sharing across cultures

Many people think of art as expensive things hanging on museum walls or thirty dollar tickets for a theatre downtown. Fortunately, a number of people in Jamaica Plain have very different ideas about art. Inspired by the possibility of using the old J.P. fire station as a community based arts center a number of residents have started the J.P. Arts Council.

Council activists want art to be part of our everyday experience. "For me," Helen Hummel told us, "art means everyone participating in creative activity." She thinks of the arts center as a place for people to get involved in art. "Making belts, drawing community murals, ethnic dancing, storytelling about community history, all of that is art," she said.

The "lantern parade" staged last Halloween around Jamaica Pond, is a good example of community art. Hundreds of people had small lanterns built on poles, lit by flickering candles. A number of parade walkers serenaded the crowd with musical instruments and apples from the back of a truck were squeezed into apple cider for thirsty passers-by.

Learning from our diversity

Council members think that an event like that is more than just fun. "Large cultural events are common experiences that members of a community share," says Femke Rosenbaum. "They help us cross ethnic, racial, and religious barriers." When people have common experiences they get a sense of belonging to a community. "When you see an ethnic or religious groups' art you see the soul of that group of people," comments Hummel, "people don't seem so remote when you see their joys, sorrows, triumphs and failures expressed in some act or work of art."

To create that sense of community and sharing across cultures Arts Council members want to see a multi-cultural arts center. They suggest Greek, Latino, Black, Irish and other multi-cultural exhibits and participatory events as possible standard activities of a center. When art is viewed this way, as expressions of the way people think and feel, it loses its remoteness and becomes something we can all share with one another.

The Power of Creativity

Community art can also teach us important values. "The creativity of art really is the opposite of the destruction we see all around in this society," says Rosenbaum. "Children, especially, can use art to liberate their imaginations and escape from the conformity our culture often breeds."

In fact, community art may help liberate more than our imaginations. "I think of community art as a way of helping people who are



victims of oppression," says Hummel. "Doing creative, artistic things helps improve the self-esteem of individuals and of whole communities." Improved self-esteem is part of empowerment, and community based art is one part of community empowerment. The struggle over use of the fire station may also be a struggle over the tune played in our community soul.

Monte Pearson & Bill St. Cyr

Help the council

As a resident of Jamaica Plain, we need your support and skills in *any* way that you can be of help. We ask you to write letters to Maura Hennigan of the Boston City Council, and to your state representative saying that you support the multi-cultural arts center idea and why. (Please send us a copy of your letters.) Get involved with the planning committees and help make the center a reality and a success.

Some of the multi-cultural activities Jamaica Plain Arts Council is involved with include the annual Wake Up the Earth Festival, a WinterArts workshop for children, a Friday evening film series, and a performance series integrating various disciplines such as poetry, dance, music and drama. Arts Council Membership entitles you to discounts on admission at selected events.

To join the council send \$10 to: P.O. Box 533, Jamaica Plain MA 02130.

from City Life, Feb-Mar. 1985

COMMUNITY HEARING SPARKS MOVING TESTIMONY

On August 8 the Jamaica Plain community gathered at the Agassiz school to hear presentations by the four development teams vying for ownership of the Jamaica Plain Firestation. Each developer used fifteen minutes to present their case, most using visual aids such as floor plans, drawings of the proposed development, and, in the case of the Arts Council team, a slide/tape presentation illustrating the positive community oriented work of the Arts Council. After the presentations, Mike Smith, project manager from the Department of Public Facilities, fielded questions and comments from the audience. Of the nearly two-hundred participants, most wore badges or pins showing support for the Arts Center, though in their comments many voiced a strong desire to see the Thrift shop of Boston in a permanent home as well.

At the time of the hearing the four proposals included Steven Daly's plan for a full-service steak and seafood restaurant, the Olmstead Village development for commercial and office space with tenancy for the Thrift Shop, the Arts Council proposal for a multi-cultural center as well as a police substation, and the Bruegger's Bagel Bakery factory and bagel restaurant with subsidized rent for a community agency or civic group.

Some of the comments that people made in support of the Arts Center idea:

School Committee member Tom O'Reilly: "I'd like to speak in reference to the quality of arts programming in the public schools. They are limited if (they exist) at all. If one looks at the contributions that the J.P. Arts Council has made to the Public Schools, particularly the local ones in J.P., it's been a tremendous savings to all the children in our city, it's something they really need. Their (Arts Council) efforts are too tremendous to neglect, because they have done an awful lot for this community."

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 11 · 1985

Kate Wiesenbergs: "I am a full time mother and spent a good part of last year driving to the Brookline Arts Center. I've been delighted by the programs of the J.P. Arts Council. They have done magnificent things with few resources."

Marta Gredler: "(I am) speaking as a resident but also as potential funder. J.P. not only deserves this venture but is well qualified to receive the support that the agency I work for makes available to every other county or city. I work for the Cultural Education Collaborative which is a non-profit private agency which for the past two years has been distributing over two million dollars worth of funds for cultural arts activities.

J.P. has probably the highest quotient of artists living here and of people deserving and wanting art activities.

The Arts Council has done incredible work without a home, working with other community agencies and community endeavors, but with a centralized location it could provide diverse programming for people of all ages and bring into this community millions in potential funds."

Jack Doherty from the J.P. Citizen: "I have seen all kinds of programs and I applaud all the individuals. This is one of the most dynamic places that we finally have in the palm of our hand...Let's give a cheer for the one proposal."

Alice Johnson from Bromley Heath: "I have watched my kids grow into beautiful human beings because of the efforts of the J.P. Arts Council. I would like to see a permanent place where we can bring children of all races, colors and creeds that live in J.P., together so they can learn from each other, culturally and other ways, so they can become the future citizens and beautiful human beings that they were meant to be."

Bagels and Arts Team Up in Firehouse Bid

by Kevin McCaffrey

As the disposition process for the old Jamaica Plain firehouse reaches its final stages, a new force has emerged on the scene.

The Arts Council has thrown its support behind Bruegger's Bagel Bakery Company and would be the major tenant in the structure if the bagel manufacturer is selected by the Public Facilities Department.

Also, former state senator Joseph Timilty has withdrawn his proposal, which also included the Arts Council as a major factor, from the race, leaving three contestants vying for possession of the structure.

Reached Monday, after Arts Council and bagel company representatives had unveiled their new plan to the PFD, Timilty announced his support for the new Arts Council move.

"What they have there is a superior or proposal to a good proposal," said Timilty.

Timilty, heading a Boston-based development concern, had proposed to develop the century-old structure on Centre Street in league with the Arts Council and realize profits through income from tenants and

through "creative tax uses."

The housing of a police sub-station at the firehouse had been a major component of the Timilty's, or the Arts Council Partnership's, plan. Timilty noted that it had become evident that there was little likelihood that the city would locate a substation there, possibly a serious drawback for the Partnership's chances.

Monday afternoon Arts Council and bagel representatives met with Mike Smith, the PFD official overseeing disposition of the city-controlled building.

Asked whether this new, late-stage realignment of contestants was fair, Smith responded that it was, pointing

to a precedent that had already occurred in the process.

Early in the disposition stages, two prospective developers—Bruegger's Bagel and Olmstead Village Associates—sought the locally-based Thrift Shop of Boston as a major tenant at the firehouse.

It has been reported that the Thrift Shop may reportedly be driven from its present Centre Street location by a rent hike.

Community benefit represents a major criterion in the selection process.

However, at the end of May, the Thrift Shop—seen by many as a potent factor in the race—threw its weight behind Olmstead Village As-

sociates, which hopes to develop retail stores at the space.

A major component of Bruegger's plan, according to Smith, had always been provision of a sizeable portion of floorspace for a community-based organization. Bruegger's has been negotiating with the Arts Council for nearly a month.

According to Michael Dressel, head of the Vermont-based bagel company, "We started to realize that both of us could achieve our goals and that working together would strengthen our proposals."

An Olmstead Village representative, Sandy Rose, said she was "not surprised" by the new development.

According to Arts Council representative Helen Hummel, the new arrangement with Bruegger's would be a favorable one for the locally based, non-profit arts and cultural organization. Under Bruegger's proposal, the Council would pay rental rates of \$1.50 per square foot monthly as opposed to \$10 under the now-dissolved Arts Council Partnership plan.

Under Bruegger's agreement with the Arts Council, the two organizations would split the bottom floor by day. Evenings, the bagel company would open its half of the first floor for Council use. Some second floor space would also be open to the Council, which seeks to operate numerous arts programs, exhibitions and cultural events at the firehouse.

Basement space would be made available for community events and remaining second floor space would be leased to an arts-related tenant.

The Arts Council essentially would be housed under a 20-year lease with options to renew at five year intervals.

The two organizations would also, if chosen, negotiate regarding the possible, eventual sale of the structure to the Council.

Bruegger's has also promised \$12,000 in renovations to the Arts Council's space.

Bruegger's hopes to develop a restaurant and manufacturing facility at the building. With outlets in various sections of the country, the bagel company is now moving into the Boston market.

Smith has promised a PFD decision later this month or in early October. At present, three prospective developers are moving towards the decision line.

However, some area observers speculate that one proposal, Stephen Daly's bid to develop a traditional fish and steak restaurant at the firehouse, might be hampered by the controversy that has recently developed over District 13 on Seaverns Avenue.

In the still-raging District 13 imbroglio, the city alleges that Daly may intend to sell condo units he is developing at the former police station for prices far in excess of those he promised the city when he purchased the structure from the PFD earlier this year.

Smith would not speculate how much District 13 would affect Daly's firehouse chances.

In part because of the support of the Thrift Shop, Olmstead Village Associates' bid to develop 10 retail spaces as well as a bank and considerable low rent floor space for the shop that supports numerous Boston hospitals, is perceived as a strong contender.

Arts Council
Projected Budget
1985

1 2 3 4

Income:

Membership	2008-
Donations	450-
Earnings	2014-
In-Kind Labor	10000-
Franklin Park Zoo Project	1000-
Festival Arts Workshops	1000-
* Festival ē S.W.C.C.F.	6743-
* Art in The Park	1300-
** Grants Pledged	5000-
** Donations for The Firehouse Project	5000-
** Matching Grants Pledged	5000-

Total Income:

39515-

Expenses:

Postage & Printing	500-
In-Kind Labor	10000-
Fundraising	1000-
Franklin Park Zoo Project	1000-
Festival Art Workshops	1172-
* Festival ē S.W.C.C.F.	6787-
* Art in The Park	1300-

Other Projects:

Lantern Parade	300-
Sinterklass	500-
Xmas Caroling	100-

Equipment Dep.

Rent	30-
Travel	15-

Total Expenses:

22994-

Net Surplus

16521-

* Festival Income & Expenses have been administered by the Southwest Corridor Community Farm which has acted as our umbrella organization.

* * these items are all contingent on our acquiring "The Fire House" and will be "Ear Marked" for direct Fire House expenses.

Arts Council
Income & Expense Statement
Jan 1, 1984 - Dec. 31, 1984

	1	2	3	4
1				
2	Income:			
3	Membership	790-		
4	Fundraisers	919-		
5	* Festival	1987-		
6	In-Kind Labor	4200-		
7	Donations	175-		
8	Projects:			
9	Sinterklass	500-		
10	Lantern Parade	377-	877-	
11	Total Income			8948-
12				
13	Expenses:			
14	Printing & Postage	379-		
15	In-Kind Labor	4200-		
16	Fundraising Expenses	247-		
17	Bank Charges	43-		
18	Projects:			
19	Sinterklass	500-		
20	Lantern Parade	377-	877-	
21	Festival	1987-		
22	Equipment Depreciation	30-		
23	Total Expenses			7763-
24				
25	Net Surplus			1185-
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31	* Festival Income & Expenses have been administered by the			
32	South West Corridor Community Farm which has been our			
33	umbrella organization.			
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